

THE

HISTORIAN

www.hancockcountyhistoricalsociety.com

OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

February 2011

COMING EVENTS AT LOBRANO HOUSE

The monthly luncheon meeting will be held on Thursday, February 17, 2011, at noon at the Kate Lobrano House. Guest speaker for the program will be Albro Michell who will speak on German submarines in the Gulf. **Reservations are required** and may be made by calling 467-4090. Please call **by noon on Wednesday, February 16**, to make your reservation, to help us plan seating which is limited to forty-eight people, and to apprise us of the number for whom to prepare. The price of the lunch is \$10.00.



MEMBERSHIP FEES

The 2011 Membership Drive is on! It's time for current members to renew their membership in the Historical Society and to encourage family and friends to join us too. The price of membership is twenty-five (\$25) per year. The date on your address label is your date of membership expiration.



from
Matthew
Carey's
General
Atlas Im-
proved and
enlarged:
Being a
Collection
of Maps of
the World
and Quar-
ters (1814)

Lake Borgne

By
Russell B. Guerin

"The French, thinking that it did not answer precisely the definition of a lake, because it was not altogether land-locked, or did not at least discharge its waters only through a small aperture, and because it looked rather like a part of the sea, separated from its main body by numerous islands, called it Lake Borgne, meaning something incomplete or defec-

tive, like a man, with one eye....On that lake there is a beautiful bay, to which Iberville gave the patronymic name of St. Louis."—Charles Gayarre, 1847, from his *History of Louisiana*

Is it possible that Gayarre confused the location of Lake Borgne in relation to the Bay of St. Louis? To repeat "...on that lake is a beautiful bay."

Today, Lake Borgne's eastern edge is found at the mouth of the lake, just southeast of the terminus of Pearl River. However, at one time, it was consid-

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Marianne Pluim, Webmaster**LOBRANO HOUSE
HOURS**MONDAY — FRIDAY
10:00AM — 3:00PM
Closed: 12:00—1:00 (lunch)**MISSION STATEMENT**

"TO PRESERVE THE GENERAL AND ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY OF HANCOCK COUNTY AND TO PRESERVE THE KATE LOBRANO HOUSE AND COLLECTIONS THEREIN; TO RESEARCH AND INTERPRET LIFE IN HANCOCK COUNTY; AND TO ENCOURAGE AN APPRECIATION OF AND INTEREST IN HISTORICAL PRESERVATION."

ered that the northern borders of Lake Borgne ran along the Mississippi coastline all the way to the south shore of the Bay of St. Louis.

At least, that is my considered conclusion. Indeed, the Latour maps [by Major A. Lacarriere Latour, 1814] place the east end of Lake Borgne to be just south of "Pass Mariann" [sic]

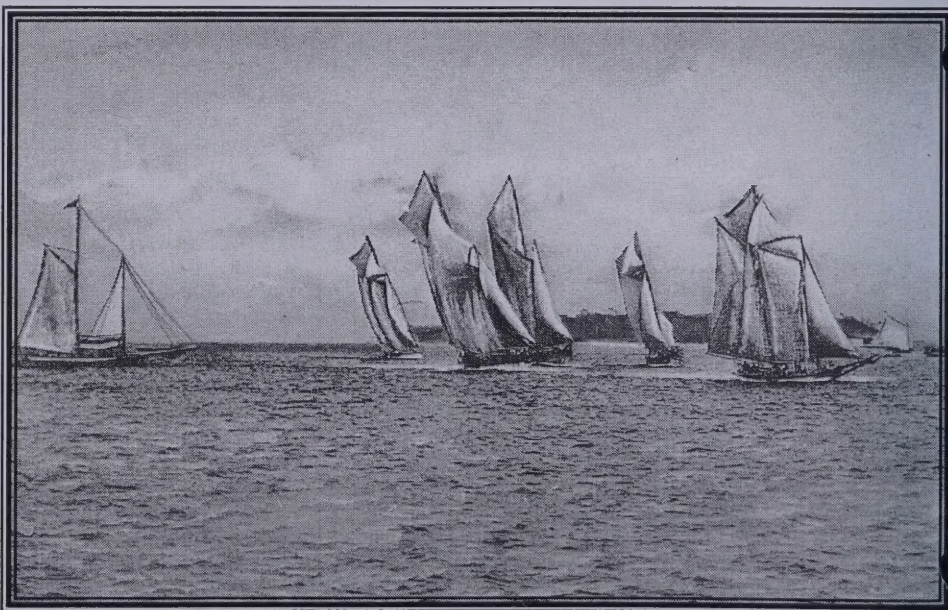
It may be asked why I have pursued such an arcane subject over a long period of time when it is obvious the modern day geography of the area is different. Partly, the reason has been to satisfy my own curiosity, which has been encouraged over the years in studying old maps, early deeds, and other documents.

On the other hand, understanding such differences in shapes and names of places could be helpful to someone else who studies early records, espe-

cially those that predate current land descriptions by township, land, and section numbers.

Moreover, the changes may be of more than passing interest to those concerned about land and marsh losses over historical times especially those losses that have disadvantaged St. Bernard Parish and New Orleans. In large measure, land that might have been viewed as permanent no longer exists.

There are a number of reasons for my conclusion. One source is found in the tax rolls of Hancock County from its earliest formation. In 1829, the Ioor plantation of 3,940 acres was said to be located at Pt. Clair, but the 1832 roll shows it at the Bay of St. Louis. In 1836, it is identified as being at "Claiborn" [sic]. Finally, the land of the widow Joor (alternate spelling of Ioor) is shown to be situated at Lake Borgne.



Sailing on the lake in Waveland

The land did not move. We know now that the Ioor/Joor plantation occupied primarily the area we now know as Lakeshore. All of the previous land descriptions are essentially correct because in the early days of the county there was little exact placement; locations were thought of in general terms.

In a deed dated August 8, 1836, the following description referenced a parcel of land just west of the old Pirate House:

We obligate ourselves to let Major E. Carver and Julius Monet, Esq. divide the tract of land owned by us bordering on Lake Bourne near the Bay of St. Louis, giving each of us an equal front upon the Lake, and also an equal part of the whole tract, and agree under the penalty of \$1,000....

But where did we get the name *Lakeshore*? In 1852, Benjamin Wailes, acting as the State Geologist, visited Asa Russ on the "Lake Shore," located at the site of modern day Buccaneer Park. In addition, according to Roy Baxter in a 1978 article in the *Sea Coast Echo*, one of the Weston family mined salt "on the lakeshore."

In 1852, Wailes recorded in his journal that he left Clifton Plantation to go to "Mr. Asa Russ of the Lakeshore," a distance of fourteen miles. This later became Sea Song Plantation, owned by Andrew Jackson, Jr., and the present site of Buccaneer Park. Another reference in

Hancock County records includes an August 3, 1877, mortgage of the site as "tract section known as the Jackson Farm" and a June 13, 1877, deed describing the property as "situated upon the lake-shore...being the late residence of Col. Andrew Jackson."

The Civil War files in the Lobrano House show a number of references to "the lake-shore" when discussing actions along the coast. For example, the September 7, 1861, report relates:

The latest intelligence from Mississippi Sound and the lake shore is up to yesterday morning. It was then very quiet; no vessels off Ship Island more than what have been in sight for several weeks past.

There is no doubt in my mind that the town of Lakeshore was given its name because it was once observed that Lake Borgne washed up on all the beachfront lands all the way to Bay St. Louis; it was all "on the lakeshore."

Early maps give a clue as to why there was such a concept. These maps clearly show those Louisiana parts south of Bay St. Louis, including the islands and the marshes, to be much more complete and solid than they are today. They are shown to be south and east of a line drawn south from the bay. This is reflective of land loss in those areas having begun in times gone by, but so much regretted today.

Map Source:

Lemmon, Alfred E.; Magill, John T.; and Wiese, Jason R., eds. *Charting Louisiana: Five Hundred Years of Maps*. New Orleans: The Historic New Orleans Collection, 2003.

Did You Know This about Hancock County?

By
Scott Bagley

Did you know that Hancock County once had a commercial vineyard that produced, marketed, and sold wine all across the United States? Established circa 1874, Brown's Vineyard was started by native Prussians Frederick and Anna Braun (later spelled Brown) on approximately ninety acres of property they had purchased under the Homestead Act a few years earlier. The property and vineyard were located at the southwest corner of the current intersection of what is now Highway 90 and Waveland Avenue.

Wine at Brown's Vineyard was made of scuppernong grapes and grew in arbors "about ten feet square and eight feet high and ten feet apart....[These] allowed the visitors to walk under and pick grapes off the vines." Guests came from hotels like the Pickwick, Tulane, and Clifton of Bay St. Louis, which was then about five miles away. The guests included folks from New Orleans, Natchez, and other places, and they traveled to the vineyard in "tally-hos," carts or wagons drawn by double teams of horses that could transport a

number of guests together.

The Brown house on the property contained a center hall, alongside of which were separate rooms with tables where guests were served the wine, together with homemade bread and butter. Inside the vineyard, there was also a pavilion where people would dance to music played on the piano by volunteers or an occasional invited professional.

Brown's Vineyard prospered over the years, both in local sales and mail-order business. Its end came as a result of Prohibition, effective January 16, 1920. Afterward the Browns emptied the wine cellar and buried the remaining inventory. There are stories that later on revenuers came to the vineyard, dug up the bottles, and destroyed them.

Mr. Brown died in 1902, and his obituary appeared in the New Orleans' *The Daily Picayune*. His funeral at Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church was described as widely attended, and among the pallbearers were "the most prominent citizens of the Bay."

The files of the Historical



Brown's Vineyard on Gainesville Road, Waveland, MS

Society contain a transcript of an interview with Mr. Charles Banderet, taken on tape on May 12, 1977, by Margaret M. Gibbons. Mr. Banderet was a regular pianist at Brown's Vineyard and was eighty-five at the time of the interview.

Also in the "files" of the Historical Society is a not yet opened bottle of Brown's Scuppernong Wine. Apparently the revenuers missed one.

SOURCES:

Dyer, Charles Lawrence. *Along the*

Gulf. New Orleans: William E. Myers, Pub., 1894; Gulfport, MS: The Dixie Press, 1971.

Guerin, Russell B. "Historical Marker for Brown's Vineyard, Waveland." *Russell Guerin: A Creole in Mississippi*. 23 Dec. 2009. Web. 01 Feb. <www.russguerin.com>.

VOLUNTEERS

We invite members to volunteer at the Society as their time permits. We have many projects planned, but we lack the manpower to fulfill them. If you can spare a day, a morning, or an afternoon, please call us at 467-4090.

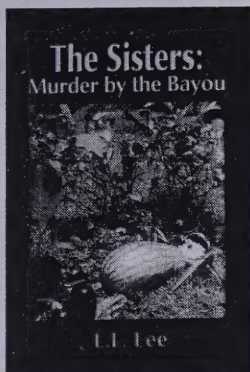


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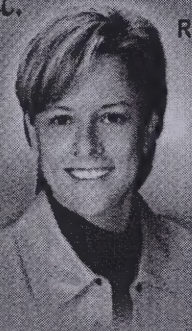
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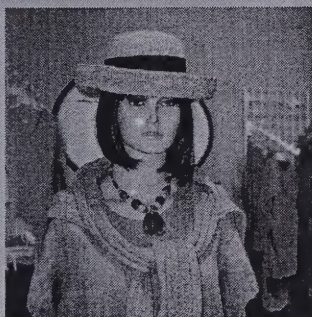


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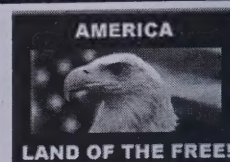
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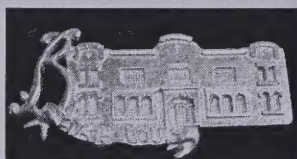
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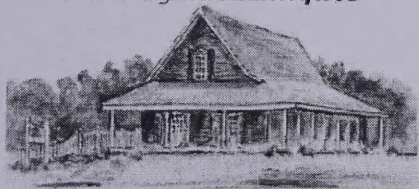
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